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Published to advance the Science of cold-blooded vertebrates

RUDDERFISHES AT WOODS' HOLE IN 1920

Rudderfishes representing three families came under observation at Woods' Hole, Mass., in 1920.

The very attractive *Seriola zonata* was represented by several specimens, 5 to 7 inches long, taken under floating material in Vineyard Sound and kept in the aquarium of the Bureau of Fisheries during parts of August and September. In the absence of a suitable hover, this species will seek refuge under almost any small objects. In the aquarium, a smaller specimen used to swim under a larger one and both sought the protection of a threadfish (*Alectis ciliaris*) only 5 inches long.

Palinurichthys perciformis was more abundant in Vineyard Sound during the latter part of August than during any of the numerous occasions extending over 25 years when I have been at Woods' Hole. On certain days almost every floating box, barrel, plank and mass of eel-grass or rock-weed served as a shelter for this rudderfish, and some of the larger rafts of seaweed covered hundreds of specimens ranging from 6 to 12 inches long. Many were secured with a small dipnet thrust suddenly under bits of seaweed from a slowly moving motor boat.

The Rudderfish, sometimes called Bermuda Chub (*Kyphosus sectatrix*), is not common in southern Massachusetts and is not observed every year at Woods' Hole. On October 15 one was taken in a trap in Buzzard's Bay; this specimen, like most of

those that have been recorded from this northern limit of range, was about 6 inches long.

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DATA ON LOCAL FISHES FROM THE NEW YORK AQUARIUM

This past summer (1920) the Aquarium's new collecting boat, "Sea-Horse," made frequent trips in the lower bay for fishes, most of which were obtained from the pound nets there. Comparing her log-book with previously compiled data on the seasonal occurrence of marine fishes near New York City, brings to light certain observations which are an addition to that data. These are given below:—

Clear-nosed Skate (*Raja eglanteria*) was common during the summer. October 5 is a late date for the occurrence of this species.

Sting Ray (*Dasyatis centrura*) is now uncommon locally. One is noted on the trip of June 20-22 and one on Sept. 23.

Cow-nosed Ray (*Rhinoptera bonasus*) is rare locally. A specimen was taken on trips of June 13-14, September 3 and September 10-11.

Lafayette (*Leiostomus xanthurus*) was common throughout the season, being present on the first trip made, June 1, which is early for this species.

Croaker (*Micropogon undulatus*) is only rarely common locally as it was this year. It was first taken on the trip of June 13-14, and one was obtained on that of July 21-22. It is again mentioned in the fall, on the trips of October 10-11 to October 21-22, which is late for it.

Butterfish (*Poronotus triacanthus*) are ordinarily abundant in the fall. A single one is reported on the trip of June 20-22, and its occurrence became frequent beginning with that of August 5-6.

Pilot-fish (*Seriola zonata*). Both very early and